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COMMISSION INVESTIGATES AZERBAIDZHAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

In February, a special commission appointed by the Deputy Minister of Public Health USSR, M. K. Krovignina, conducted a survey to determine the public health situation in Azerbaydzhian SSR. The survey covered the Ministry of Public Health Azerbaydzhian SSR, ten scientific research institutions and medical schools, and more than 200 therapeutic-prophylactic and sanitation-epidemiological enterprises in Baku and 13 rayons of the Republic.

Several days were spent listening to reports of K. Ya. Faradzheva, Minister of Public Health Azerbaydzhan SSR, and other personnel of the Administration.

In 1943, the Ministry of Public Health with the assistance of the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers of Azerbaydzhán improved the medical service available to the population and succeeded in decreasing the number of general patients and occupational disease cases among oil field workers. Recurrent typhus was completely wiped out, while malaria cases were cut by about 45 percent. Forty-five municipal hospitals have united with 60 dispensaries and polyclinics, thus improving the medical service. The organization of municipal and rayon departments of public health has been improved. All have competent doctors on their staffs.

In spite of the general over-all improvement of the medical service, there are still some very noticeable defects. Poor distribution of hospital beds is the cause of inefficient functions. The mortality rate is high in a great many diseases, such as acute pneumonia and diphtheria. Pathologico-anatomic service is poor, except in Baku. Implementation of a recent decree of the Ministry of Public Health USSR for the reorganization of public health services in rural communities is progressing slowly. In many areas general practitioners are doing specialized work, and frequently the people have no specialist's aid.

The commission found that medical personnel were not being assigned properly, moreover, their training was unsatisfactory. Medical schools and scientific research institutes did not cooperate with the Ministry of

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Public Health in solving various important problems. The so-called institutions for the advancement of doctors frequently did not familiarize their students with contemporary Soviet medical achievements.

The commission recommended that the Ministry of Public Health for the Republic be completely reorganized. Particular attention is to be given to increasing Ministerial control over its branch offices. The Ministry of Public Health for the Republic in cooperation with Party and professional union organizations is charged with the duty of improving the ideological-political training of medical workers. There must also be a reorganization of the operation of medical schools and scientific research institutes with a view toward fulfilling the practical needs of the Public Health Service.

The commission suggested that unification of hospitals and polyclinics be completed by 1 June 1949. It set 1 September 1949 as the date by which rayon hospitals were to be reorganized. In accordance with Decree No 396, child welfare is to be improved. Special efforts must be made in August 1949 to eliminate parasitic typhus and to decrease greatly intestinal diseases and malarial incidences.

Deputy Minister Kovrigina urged that the commission's recommendations be completed by the fourth quarter of 1949.

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